

FLOW CONTROL ELEMENT FOR USE WITH LEAK-PROOF CUP ASSEMBLIES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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4/12/05*

[0001] This application is a continuation of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/437,413 filed on May 13, 2003, ^{now abandoned,} which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/155,636 filed on May 23, 2002, ^{now abandoned,} which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/645,975 filed on February 4, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,422,415, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/019,765 filed on February 6, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,050,445, the disclosures of which are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates generally to flow control elements. More particularly, the present invention relates to flow control elements for leak-proof cup assemblies.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0003] Enclosed cups having drinking spouts and air vents that allow the user to drink from the spout without creating